

Board of County Commissioners Office of Voter Registration

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Why aren't there Independent Candidates listed on any of the available ballots?

In order to get on the ballot in Georgia, a candidate for state or federal office must meet a variety of complex, state-specific filing requirements and deadlines. These regulations, known as ballot access laws, determine whether a candidate or party will appear on the election ballot. These laws are set at the state level. A candidate must prepare to meet ballot access requirements well in advance of primaries, caucuses and the general election.

There are three basic methods by which an individual may become a candidate for office in a state.

- 1. An individual can seek the nomination of a state-recognized political party.
- 2. An individual can run as an independent. Independent candidates often must petition in order to have their names printed on the general election ballot.
- 3. An individual can run as a write- in candidate.

"Award-Winning Government"

STEVE L. HOWARD County Administrator JOHN S. MYERS County Attorney